

Shelton State Courier

"Building Our Sense of Community"

—Campus Newspaper—

New Series Vol. 2, Number 17

Shelton State Community College

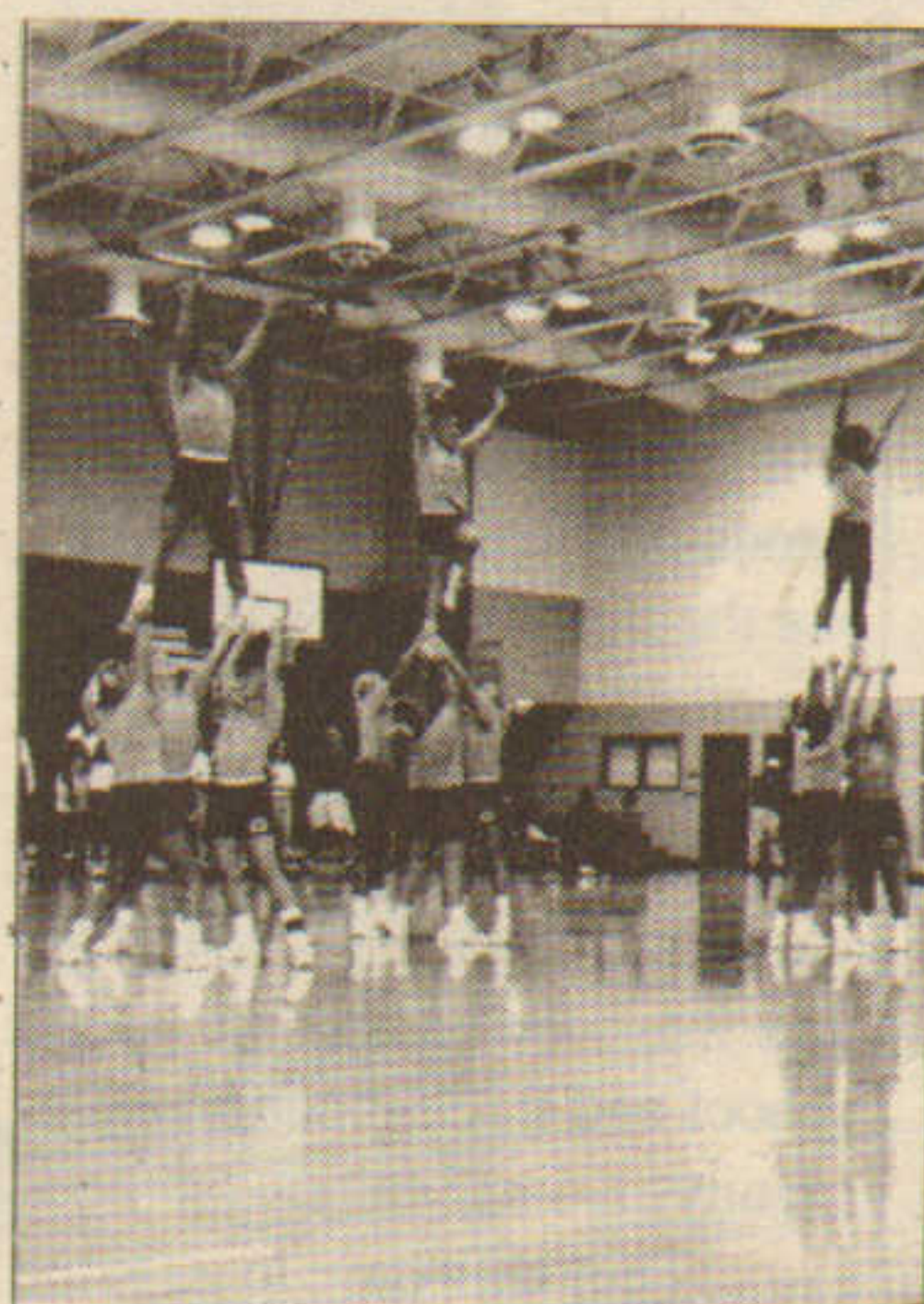
Dec. 3-Dec. 8, 1998

Second Part in a Series Examining the College's Athletic Program

Why do we play?



The world of Shelton sports is composed of many players with many points of view, including (Clockwise from L) State Board member Sandra Ray who is slowly recognizing their benefit; administrators Humphrey Lee, Rick Rogers and Ronald Range who have to find funding; the Shelton Cheerleaders who just want to cause fun and Brian Sellers who hopes to field a tennis squad one day



Photos by Melissa Dover

By James A. Crawford II

The sports programs at the community colleges in Alabama are much like a field goal that's just left the kicker's foot—whether or not it's going to turn out good is all up in the air.

One factor that might work in the college's favor, though, is the people involved in making the sports program work—they're all teachers or administrators with other duties.

Coaches at the Junior college level play the dual role of being both coach and having to teach

classes or administer other programs. They don't have the pressure to make the spotlight like the big four-year colleges have because these coaches have other responsibilities that help them earn their salaries.

Sports then can be just a natural and optional extension of the college and can be here for as long as the coaches want to coach or the Alabama Post-Secondary school system and its director, Dr. Fred Ganious, feel they need sports.

"Up until the last ten years or so there weren't very many sports

at all in junior colleges," says Sandra Ray, State Board of Education member.

According to Ray, junior, or community colleges, were originally only intended to be used to prepare students for the work force or to get them ready to attend a four-year institution.

Community colleges have come a long way from those original intentions and sports very well may have played a part in that growth.

"I do see some of the benefits

Play cont'd on pg. 3

Sheltoniana Which Can Be Found Nowhere Else

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Look for the sales, discount coupons, and special notices in the Courier's ads

These companies are our special friends. Let's support them!

For advertising information call the publisher at 391-2278

Working Your Way Through College

Chaka Bevill works hard to get ahead, get wheels

Second in a series of articles chronicling the interesting work lives of various Shelton State students

By Eric Dickey

Have you ever been working in a bookstore when the staff is hastily putting the latest best-sellers on the shelf? Or earning your daily bread at a clothing store when the truck arrives with the latest styles aboard?

Most people cannot say they've done either of the above. However, Shelton State Community College student Chaka Bevill does both almost every day of her life. Working at Books A Million, and at Express keeps her

days occupied when not attending school.

Bevill is taking what is known as a full load—in both college and life. She is enrolled currently with 12 semester hours, taking History 101, English 101, Human Growth and Development, as well as Microcomputer Concepts (with the teacher she and her classmates fondly call "The Nutty Professor," Darrell Wright). She enrolled in Shelton State during the past summer, and attended a few classes during that semester.

Bevill told the Courier that

Chaka cont'd on pg. 3



Chaka Bevill loves her job at Books-A-Million but wishes she had more time to do other things

Photo by Melissa Dover and Andrew Holley

Our Town re-establishes Shelton departmental theatre

The department of Theatre at Shelton State will present Thornton Wilder's Pulitzer Prize winning play *Our Town* Dec. 3-6 at the Bean-Brown Theatre on the school's campus at 9500 Old Greensboro Rd.

Directed by Michael Carr, *Our Town* is the first production in a number of years staged using exclusively Theatre department students and Shelton faculty and staff.

"I am delighted that our theatre students have this opportunity to undertake such a challenging play," said Carr. "Although our students frequently take part in Theatre Tuscaloosa productions, this is the first chance to carry a show on their own."

Paul K. Looney, executive producer for Theatre Tuscaloosa and chairman of Shelton's theatre department said, "As we began plan-

ning the Bean-Brown Theatre, a season of Shelton's own was always intended as part of the mix of activities to be scheduled in the facility. *Our Town* is only the beginning of our student season. Next spring, all of the fine arts departments will be cooperating on a production of Roger's and Hammerstein's *Cinderella*."

Our Town cont'd on pg. 5

One Way of Looking at It...

To Play or Not to Play

When we began looking at Shelton sports about a month ago we knew many of the questions, but we sure didn't have an inkling about many of the answers.

We wondered about the supposed law that makes football illegal at Alabama junior colleges.

We heard that the faculty of the college, by and large, hated sports. Wonder why.

We heard that Title IX, which requires that as many women as men receive scholarships, sometimes puts all sports in a bind. How does that work?

Finally, we heard there was a chance that the Alabama J.C. system might do away with sports all together. Now that's getting to the crook of the matter, eh? That is a question of Shakespearian dimensions!

When James Crawford finally had to chance to talk with several officials in the state offices for two-year colleges, he found that many hovered about in the no-sports camp. That shook us up for an interval in the *Courier* office. Maybe we shouldn't even be asking the questions...

The anti-athletics have a point, too. Most students at Shelton are toiling away under some kind of hardship that does not prevail at, say, the University of Alabama. Financial problems. Academic problems. Social problems... Something. Most people are here for some reason that didn't take them across town to the big

Mater over there.

Also, teaching a class full of junior college athletes who thought their potential was too great to actually bother studying is enough to turn a sports fan away from jockdom in revulsion.

Yes, the sports-haters of the junior college world have many very good points on their side.

But let's consider another point of view. Let's think about that J.C. student who has no role models to encourage her finishing higher education. Let's think about the struggling dude who has to work two jobs to make enough money to take 12 hours a semester. Let's think about Jack and Jill who are no whizzes at school, and, indeed, may never get a degree.

Are these people not entitled to the full collegiate experience? Should they not be allowed to root for the home team?

Are athletics kept in the proper perspective not an ennobling, nourishing, endeavor?

Junior college is about giving everybody a chance to do better, to aim higher, to stride farther.

When we give the struggling junior college student a vision of a better, bigger world, it should be of a world full of books, full of art, replete with theatre.

And, I would argue, we should present to them a rich world that has games in it as well.

—Jim Kenny

Why you should take news reporting

By Tamika Taylor

While many students at Shelton try to find new classes to take for the next semester they probably don't know that a news reporting class even exists.

The news reporting class is taught by Dr. Jim Kenny and the class is dedicated to putting together the *Shelton Courier*.

The class meets twice a week for about an hour and fifteen minutes. In class the students discuss upcoming newspaper issues and current events.

The class gives students hands-on experience, like writing their own stories and receiving credit for doing so by having their name and story in the paper.

The students do their own work, which includes going out and interviewing people in the school and throughout the community.

They then have to go to the newsroom and type their own story up and create the newspaper layout. The class is small which makes learning and understanding very easy.

Opinion

The class gives the students an opportunity to be themselves and express their own opinions. The class is not a lecture type class; the students take few notes because most of their learning comes from their hands-on work and Dr. Kenny gives handouts which cover the terms of journalism we need to know.

The class gives the students the experience they need to someday be a newspaper reporter or just a good writer. The class not only transfers to almost any college but it also looks good on your record.

This class is good for people who like to write and like to go out and meet people, because you have to go and interview people and also get their opinion.

Because the class is small the students get to write as many stories as they like and get as much experience as they need. You also build your credibility and become known for your good stories and that makes the reader look forward to reading your articles.

The newspaper is a way that the student can show off their hard work and maybe even someday show it to potential employers.

If I've already paid my money, why isn't it up to me to come to class?

By James A. Crawford II

With all of the pressures that college students have to endure in the effort to make a better life for themselves, the threat of a ominous tardy or deadly excessive absent F is something, quite frankly, that we can do without.

My mother used to tell me that if I wanted to do something with my life that I was the one who had to make it happen.

These words have been true with every aspect of my life, both the successful parts and the not-so successful parts, with the exception of education.

In high school I can understand having an attendance policy. Kids need to have discipline and to be governed.

But again, quite frankly, I'm not a kid anymore and I already know who to turn to for advice. I don't need an attendance policy hanging over my head to make me do right or else we'll destroy your college life as you know it.

Let's just let college do what it's supposed to: teach us to be responsible and self-reliant, even if it's despite ourselves.

Future Issues

The *Courier* looks forward to 11 more issues this school year: two each month in February, March and April; one each month is scheduled for December, January, May, June, July and August. Let us know what you would like to know about Shelton by calling the publisher at 391-2278 or the new Shelton Editorial Office at 391-2406.

SGA plans Toys for Tots drive

On Dec. 1, the SGA began collecting toys for the disadvantaged youth here in Tuscaloosa. The program will run through the 11th of this month and the toys will be delivered to the Salvation army to be given out.

"I'm very excited about being able to help underprivileged children and it's a good way for the SGA to be able to give back to the community," says Becky Avery, President of the SGA.

The toys will be collected in the counseling center just off the atrium at the Martin Campus. All donations are welcomed.

SGA participates in Horizon project

On Nov. 17, the SGA entertained guest speaker Johnny Parker who was representing the Horizon project.

The Horizon project is a program implemented by Shelton State to look at what the college is doing and what it needs to be doing to be ready for the future.

"Mr. Parker came to our meeting to get our input on ideas for the future. He wanted to see how students felt about what the campus was doing and get some ideas for what it needed to do to get ready for future classes and make it better for everyone," said Avery.

SGA gets word back on Student ID's

In the meeting on November 17, SGA president Becky Avery announced that Dean of Students Humphrey Lee was ready and willing to get the Student ID's back possibly as soon as next semester.

"Dean Lee has said that he spoke with the business office and we may can have the ID's back for the spring semester," said Avery.

According to Avery, the process is at the stage that Dean Lee is working to put together the people needed to make the proposed ID program a reality.

Shelton State Courier

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The *Shelton State Courier* is a "campus newspaper" written and produced with the help of students.

Among other functions, it is intended as a vehicle for student expression and all students

are urged to participate with submissions of written and artistic material.

The college seeks to fulfill the statement for academic freedom in working with the students in the production of this paper:

"The college seeks to provide an atmosphere conducive to open and honest intellectual inquiry in any college forum which is appropriate for dialogue and student participation. The students should feel free to exercise the right to dissent within limits of decorum and good taste."

All publications are subject to review by the Publications Action Group, which has been delegated the responsibility to review all college publications for content and accuracy.

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Chaka cont'd from pg.1

she is majoring in Criminal Justice. She plans to attend the University of Alabama once she is finished at Shelton State.

She is always busy, whether running from job to job, or having to stay up late at night to complete her studies. This would all make one assume that she would make an excellent officer of the law when she graduates. However, this will come in due time. She has at least 3 1/2 years of college still to go.

For any normal young adult, going to school and making good grades is hard enough. However, in Bevill's case, this is not good enough. She works so she has the money to pay her bills. Bevill has wants and needs like any other person in this world. She is still living

at home, and is still very dependent upon her parents. Just like many other families in the United States of America, Bevill's family could not just run out and pay cash for her to drive a new car. This is why she currently is working two jobs.

Transportation will allow her to get to and from work with no problems. This is currently not so easy because she has to borrow others' cars if she wants to do anything. Bevill also said, "I work two jobs during this time of the year to give myself more money to buy Christmas presents."

Have you ever been to Books-A-Million? Well Bevill spends a lot of her days there. "I have been working here for about three months now," she told the *Courier*. Bevill is employed there part time. She also mentioned that she liked this job the best. "It has a more laid-back type of atmosphere," she said.

Bevill works the registers, and most of the time is there all alone. "Most days, it is kind of like I am my own boss. Standing at the register some days gets quite boring," says Bevill.

In a store filled to the roof with more books than the city of Tuscaloosa could read in a year, Bevill is working extremely hard to check out all of the customers that are piled up with books and magazines in their hands.

She has to do it all, from running to get a price check to opening up "Millionaires" accounts to save worthy individuals money. Through all of this, Bevill seemed to maintain her cool, and did not let the stress get to her. She just kept right on doing her job while being friendly, greeting and thanking her customers. It would seem that this proves that she has what it takes to make it working with the public.

Her other job is at Express in

University Mall where she is also employed part time. Bevill says this is a demanding, stressful, and hectic job. She also said, "The management is tough on the employees, and the job also has a more cramped work habitat." At Express, she is in the back of the store unpacking boxes of clothes and getting the tables ready for show. She also said that this job requires her to work her muscles a lot.

Bevill says she has her good days and her bad ones. Bevill said, "Sure, sometimes I have a really bad days. But, when I get that one customer that tries to be nice and courteous, it just turns the whole day around for me."

To be eighteen and have as many responsibilities as this young lady must be tough. Working two jobs, trying to pay for an automobile, as well as the small everyday task that add up would take its toll

on anyone. She also told the *Courier*, "I like my jobs; however, I'm always open to new and better things."

**Editor's Note**

For future issues of the *Courier*, Eric Dickey plans to spend time with selected students and see what it is like to be them for a day.

So if you or anyone you know is a student in an interesting situation or job, give the *Courier* a call at 391-2406.

Play cont'd from pg. 1

to having the sports programs. It very well may have had an impact on drawing more students to the community campuses," says Ray.

Humphrey Lee, Dean of Students, hasn't made up his mind if he thinks they have or have not.

"It's difficult to tell if sports have had that big of an impact in drawing student to the school, but I think they are an integral part of the college experience," says Lee.

According to Lee, with the uneasiness in the air, the sports department doesn't plan any expansion right now. They just want to build on the program they have.

That's not so good news for accounting instructor Brian Sellers, who hopes to bring women's tennis to Shelton.

"We have the talent in this area to field a really good team, but we need the scholarships and support to make it happen," says Sellers. He turned in a 20-page proposal to the administration last year, but will have to wait at least as long as it will take for all of higher-education funding to settle down in Alabama.

One of the most overlooked aspects of the sports programs at community colleges in Alabama is the absence of a football program.

Football is one of, if not the most widely popular and watched sports in existence today.

You can find football programs at almost all school levels from little leagues to junior and senior high school programs and four year colleges. But you won't see one at a community college in Alabama, because we're not allowed to have them.

A survey conducted by the *Courier* in cooperation with the SGA, found that more students were in favor of having a football team over anything else. They inspired the

question: why don't we have a football team? According to Dean Lee, sponsoring a football team would be a very costly endeavor with numerous pitfalls.

"You have several problems that come with trying to start up a football program. You have to look at insurance, equipment, and facilities. Even if we had a team, where would we play games and when? High school games are on Friday nights and big colleges play on Saturday."

"Sports are a part of the college life and they should be. That's why we have Student Services. We want students to have something to identify Shelton with, but football just isn't realistic at this time," says Lee.

It doesn't just come down to money and facilities, though. According to Renee Culverhouse, of the legal department for post-secondary education in Montgomery, it's State School Board policy that Junior colleges not have football programs.

To get a handle on the whole football thing, the *Courier* tracked down somebody in Tuscaloosa who is taking the opposite tack from the state's junior college system. Don Staffo at Stillman College has been put in charge of starting a football program from scratch. Why would somebody want to enter that world after 40 years?



Sports funding for Alabama's community colleges may ultimately be an issue on the desk of new governor Don Siegelman

The answer is quite simple, according to Staffo: football brings in students and support. "It is quite costly," admits Staffo, "but we felt it was the best choice for us. Nothing gets the students and alumni excited like football."

Is a football program even remotely possible for Shelton in any remote future?

For years there were tremendous obstacles in the way of the University of Alabama at Birmingham in its desire to field a squad, but eventually it got done. And now UAB is in Division I playing with the

big boys.

Is football at all desirable for Shelton and the 22 other community colleges in the state? Now that is another question entirely. Everything must grow or die. Everything in life is either changing or it's disintegrating.

Maybe Shelton State needs a daily newspaper with a large paid student staff. Maybe it needs more classes. Or maybe it needs a large recreation center for its students with a heated swimming pool.

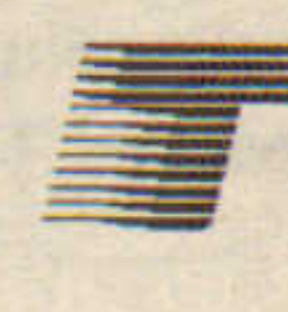
Or maybe it needs something else to garner attention and galvanize the students.

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The Mass Communication program at Shelton State is accepting applications from students who want to learn about film, TV, newspaper and other media from the world-famous media giants in Los Angeles. In order to ensure our place at the UCLA seminars, students must sign up as soon as possible. For more information, call Dr. Jim Kenny at 2278.

1999 Miss Shelton State Scholarship Pageant

Need Scholarship Money?

Any young lady who is interested in earning possible scholarship money should enter the 1999 Miss Shelton State contest.

Interested young ladies may contact Mrs. Lisa Matherson in the Financial Aid Office or by phone at 391-3903 for further information. The pageant will be held Jan. 16.

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Music Department to present first-of-its-kind Christmas Concert on December 8 at 7:30 p.m.



The popular Shelton singers will appear with the college's Jazz Ensemble. By critical consensus, the Singers are in excellent voice this year.

The Music Department at Shelton will present a Christmas Concert on Tuesday, Dec. 8 at 7:30 in the Bean-Brown Theatre. The concert will feature the Shelton Singers, under the direction of Glinda Blackshear and the Shelton Jazz Ensemble, under the direction of Dr. Alan Blackshear.

For the first time, both ensembles will be able to perform from the same stage, allowing choral music to be inter-

persed with jazz.

The concert will include sacred and secular Christmas favorites, in both traditional and swing styles.

No admission will be charged, but donations will be appreciated. All proceeds go toward the spring tour of the Shelton singers.

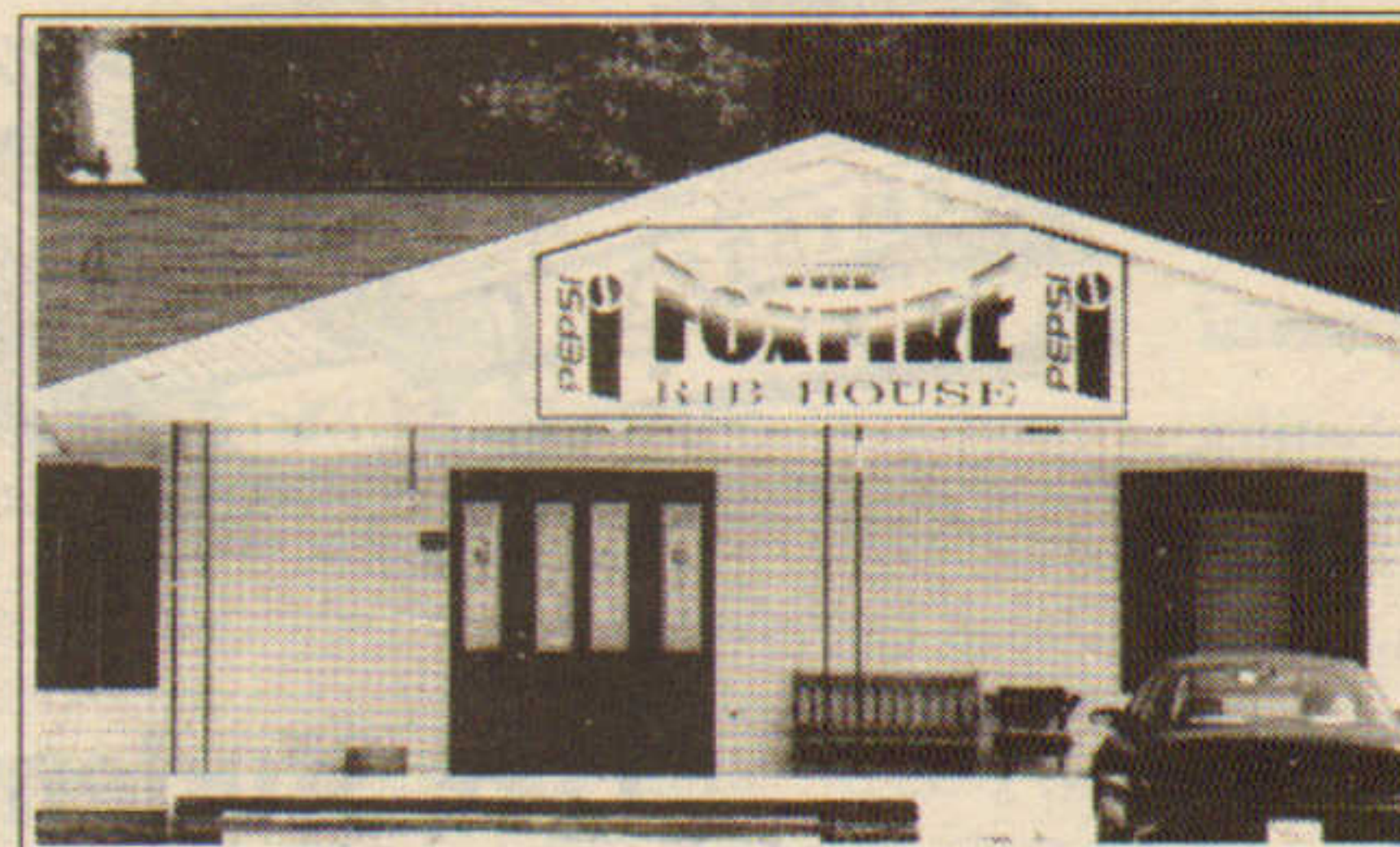
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Our Town cont'd from pg. 1

Our Town, since the time of its first performance in 1938, has been regarded as one of the best representations of life in America. For decades it has remained a landmark of theatrical craftsmanship and is widely regarded as one of the masterpieces of American drama.

It is set in 1901 in Grover's Corners, N.H., where the Gibbs and Webb families are neighbors. During their childhood, George Gibbs and Emily Webb are playmates and their lives are inextricably woven together. As they grow older they pass into a state of romantic and embarrassing interest in one another. George proposes to Emily in the drug store over an ice cream soda, and they are married with all the good folks in Grover's Corners in attendance. But George and Emily's happiness is short-lived. Emily dies in childbirth and is buried in the town's cemetery on a dreary, rainy day. There she is reunited with those friends

and neighbors who have died before her, and who help her acclimate herself to her new existence.

In one of the most vital scenes in modern theatre, the peace and quiet of death, which can never be understood by the living, is portrayed.

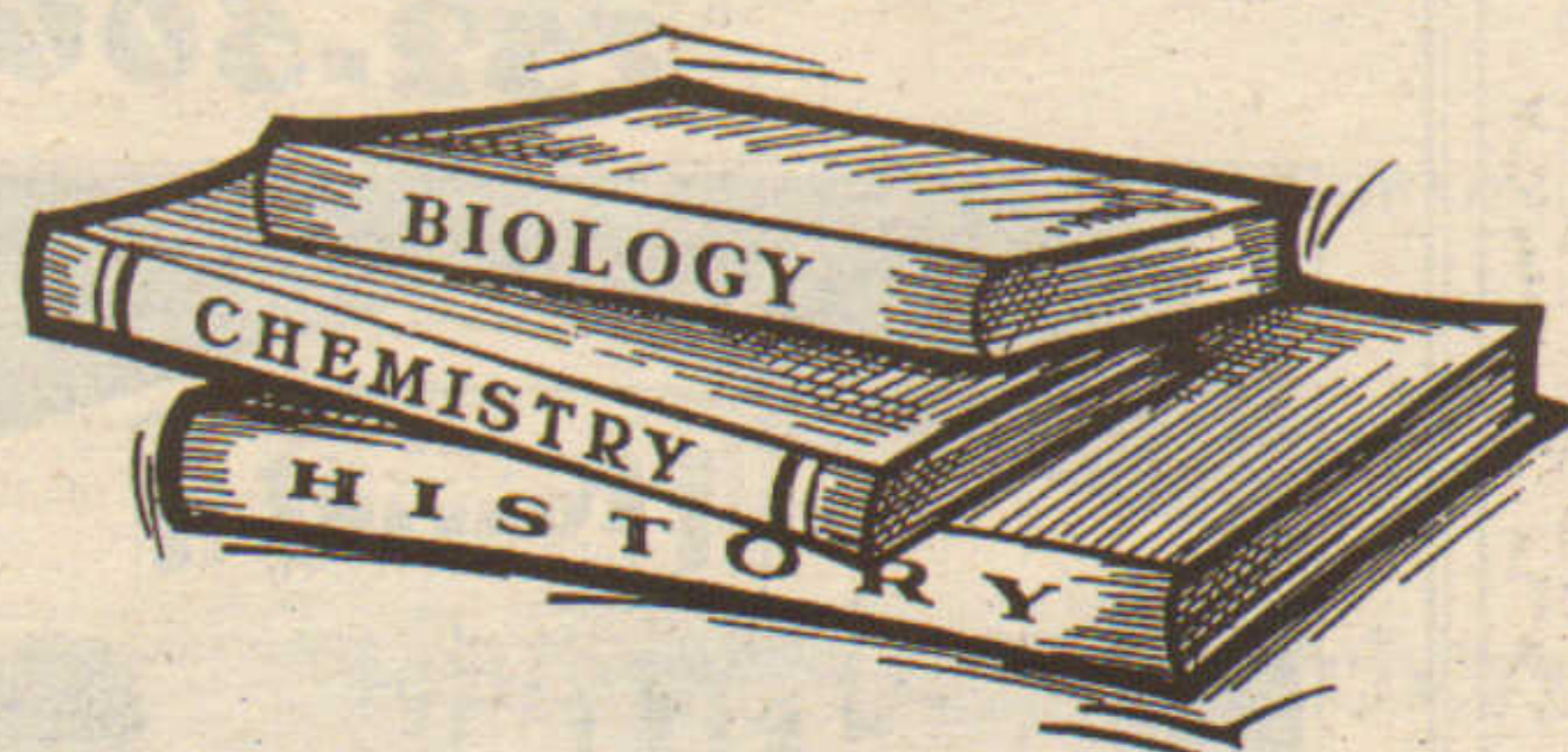
The cast of Our Town includes Paul B. Crook, an instructor at Shelton, as the stage manager, Johnny Standridge as George Gibbs and Emmy Stevens and Emily Webb.

Other cast members include Tom Canterbury, Eric Walker, Julie Arrington, Amanda Anderson, Amanda Sullivan, Frederick Delopach, Eric Hasill, Eric Curtis, Glen Johnson, Keith Kelley, Devin Norris, Matthew Saxe, and Jessica Smith. The production is designed by Ben Boyer with Daryl Harris as costume designer and Charlie Dennis as lighting designer. Stage manager is Desmond Porbeni.

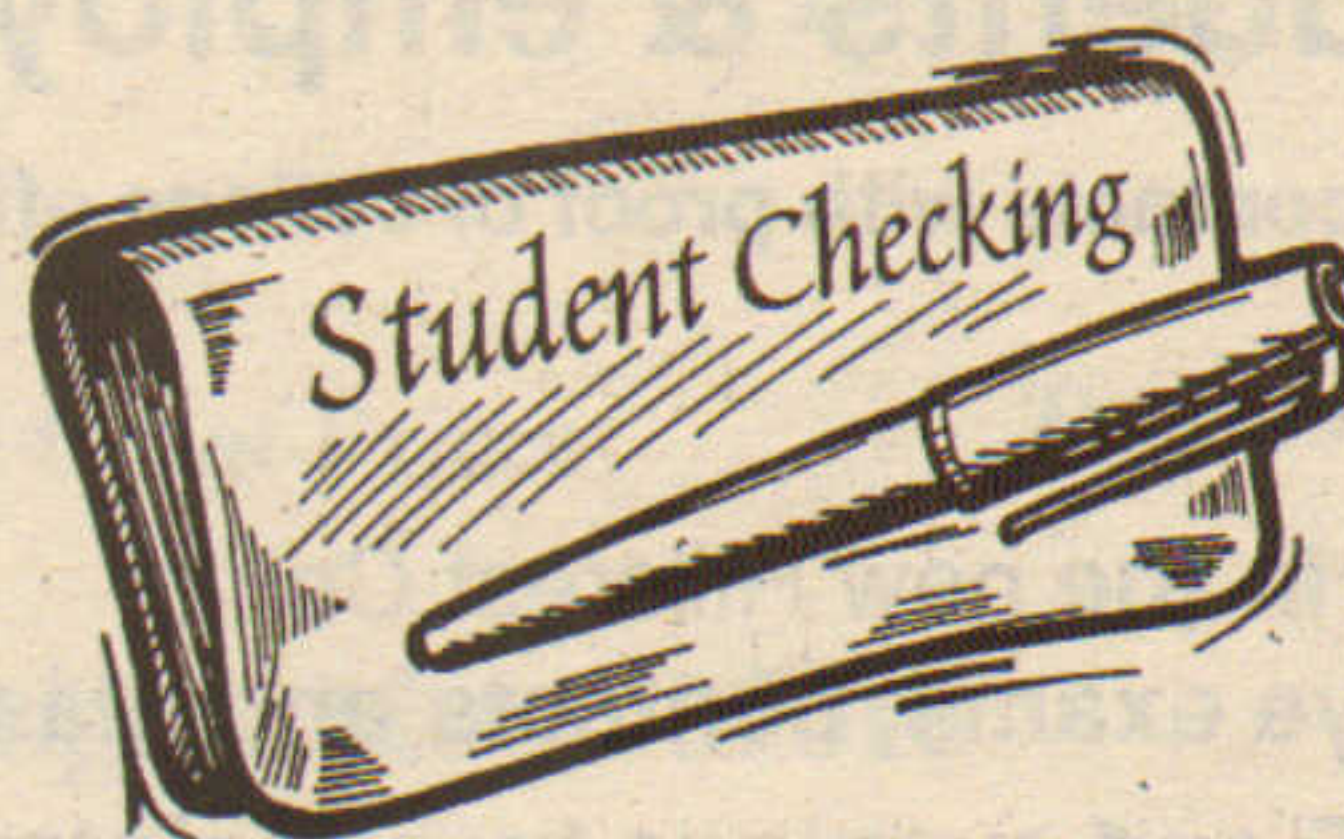
Performances are scheduled Thursday through Sunday, Dec. 3-5 at 7:30 p.m., with a matinee on Sunday, Dec. 8 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10 adults, \$5 students and may be purchased at the theatre or in advance by calling their box office at 391-2277.

The Shelton State Alumni Association (in conjunction with the Shelton State Singers' Christmas Concert and the College's tree-lighting ceremony) will be making children's pictures with "Father Christmas" for \$10 Dec. 8, 1998 from 5-7 p.m. in the Martin Campus Atrium area —for more information call 391-2221 or 391-2252

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Boot

"Boot" is the next show in the National Bank of Commerce Gallery at Shelton State from Nov. 18 until Dec. 18. The photographic exhibition features the work of Stephen Grote who went through Marine training on Paris Island and lived to return and photograph it with the permission of the Corps. The show dates coincide with the celebration of the Marine Corp's birthday in November.

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BULLETIN BOARD

Shelton State is embarking on a millennium celebration for 1999 titled "12 Months to Midnight—a Countdown to the Millennium"

According to the Shelton PR office, the goal of the project is to position Shelton as one of the premier two-year colleges in the United States. Some of the incremental goals the college hopes to accomplish during the year will be to bring new people on campus, establish Shelton as a learning center for the state, emphasize our commitment to the arts and humanities in Alabama, position ourselves as a leader in technical education, offer special educational opportunities to the faculty, staff, students and alumni, and increase participation with and support of the college.

A steering committee has been working on this project since summer. A number of other committees will be formed over the next few weeks.

Shelton Success Center has been renamed the Victor Poole Learning Center.

Debbie Grimes, director of Library Services, asks that everyone refer to the center by its official name in all communications and references.

The Holiday season at the College is in full swing. One glance up at the greens in the atrium should give everyone an appropriate seasonal jolt.

Events upcoming include the Dec. 8 Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony at 5:30 in the atrium.

Also on Dec. 8, children can come to Shelton to have their picture taken with Father Christmas from 5-7 p.m. The Shelton Alumni Association is doing the honors. Cost of the sitting will be \$10 for a 5x7 shot.

The Shelton Singers and Shelton Jazz Ensemble concert will follow this at 7:30 p.m. in the Bean-Brown Theatre.

Finally, the Shelton Dance department has a concert scheduled for 7 p.m. in the Bean-Brown Theatre with no admission cost.

Food Court "Interactive Newspaper" Corner

Oh, you will be tested... you will be tested

In the past few months there has been a great deal of pontificating about ethics and moral principles. Regardless of differences among individuals, proper ethical conduct implies a behavior that considers the impact of one's actions or omissions on society and others.

Proper ethical conduct means you consider not only your interest, but also what is in the best interest of others. Furthermore, it means you do what is right even when it involves personal sacrifice.

What many students fail to realize is their own moral and ethical code will be challenged when they enter the workplace. Unfortunately, managers are often in situations where they feel pressure to violate their personal ethics to achieve organizational goals. Moreover, they expect their employees to do the same.

The justification and rationale is that the ends justify the means. But good leaders accept disagreement and respect employees who are not willing to compromise their ethics.

While individuals may differ as to what is right or wrong in a given situation, there are a number of sound principles that form the foundation for ethical behavior:

- *Avoid small ethical lapses.* While these may seem harmless, they compromise your work and undermine your character. More importantly, small ethical breaches early in a career tend to escalate to larger more severe breaches later on. The point is, one "trains" for the big ethical questions in life by practicing on the small ones (for example resume preparation). For a good explanation of how this works,

read "Memory Lapse: How a Salesman Built Hottest Stock of 1996 Before the Roof Fell In," in the Wall Street Journal on April 11, 1997.

- *Focus on your long-term reputation.* Many ethical transgressions occur when you are under severe short-term pressure. The ethical dilemma is created by explicit or implied threats that failure to "go-along" may result in undesirable consequences.

Respond by removing the focus from short-term pressures; instead focus on your long-term reputation. Your reputation is very valuable; it is not purchased but earned through your actions.

- *Accept the fact you will suffer adverse personal consequences for holding onto an ethical position.* In some organizations, managers have endured career setbacks for not compromising their ethical beliefs, but they usually persevered in the long-run to become respected, successful leaders.

- *Accept the fact you are human and will make mistakes.* Everyone makes honest, unintentional mistakes, and sometimes we even make "I don't care" mistakes. Regardless, do not become discouraged or disillusioned. It is not hypocritical to have high ethical standards and fail sometimes at maintaining them; it is human.

- *Remember the Golden Rule: treat others the way you want to be treated.*

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By Brian Seller, CPA
Shelton Instructor

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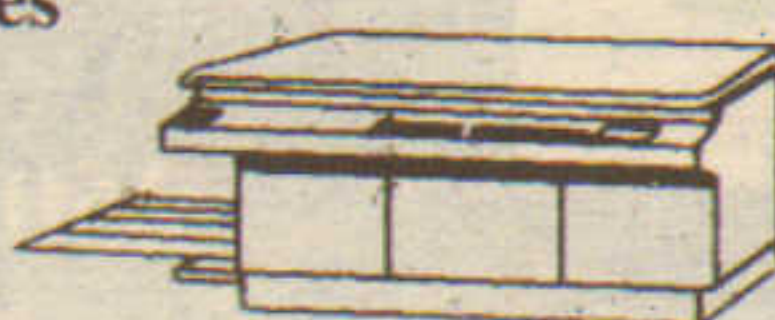
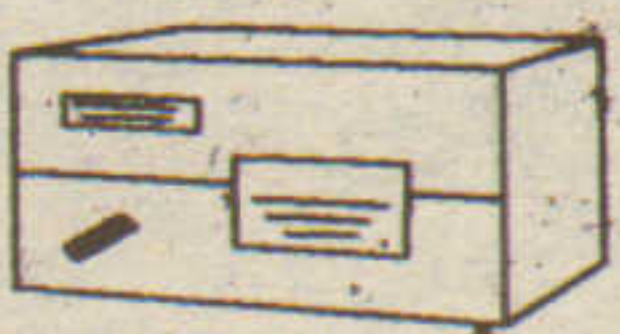
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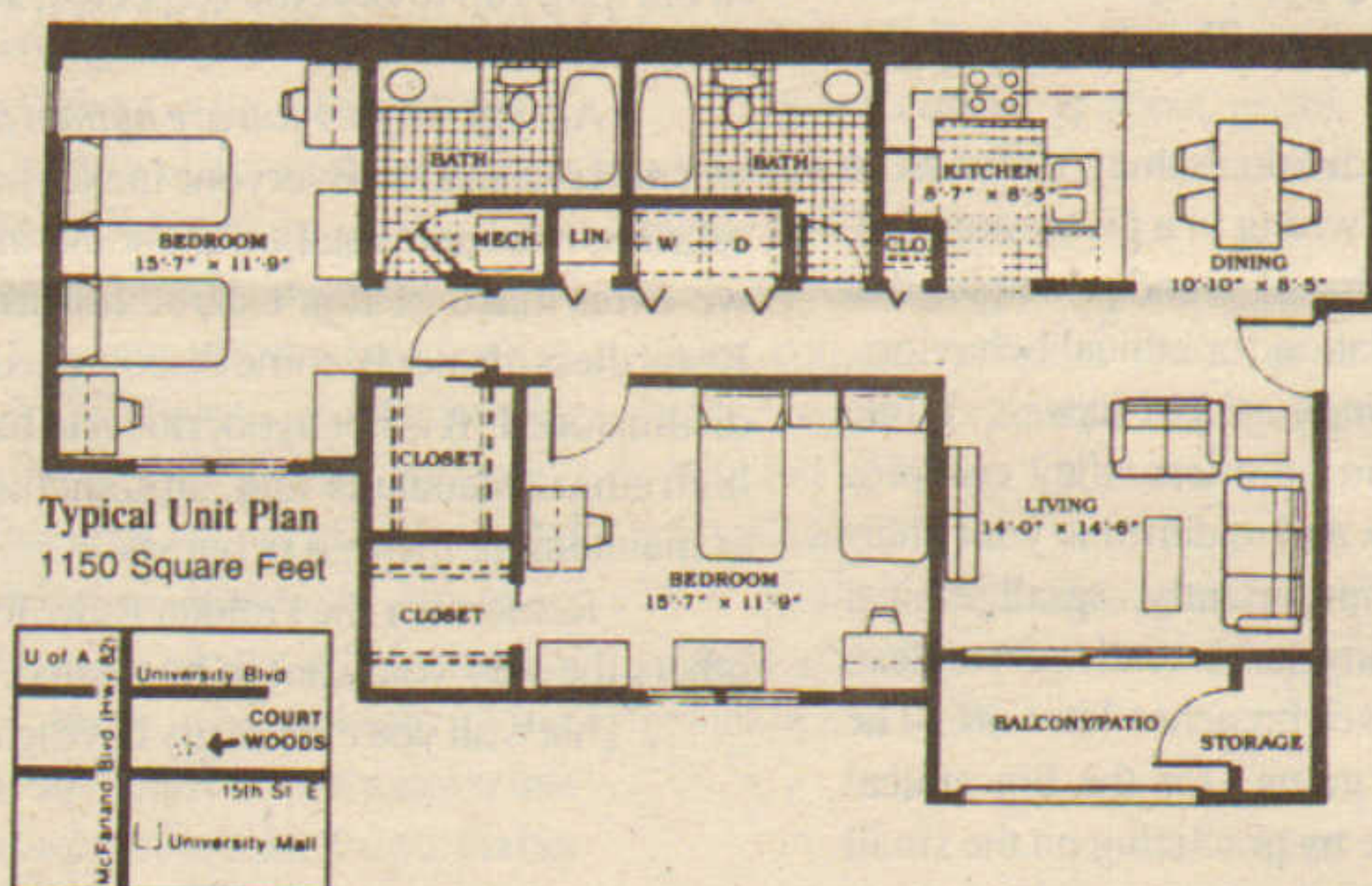
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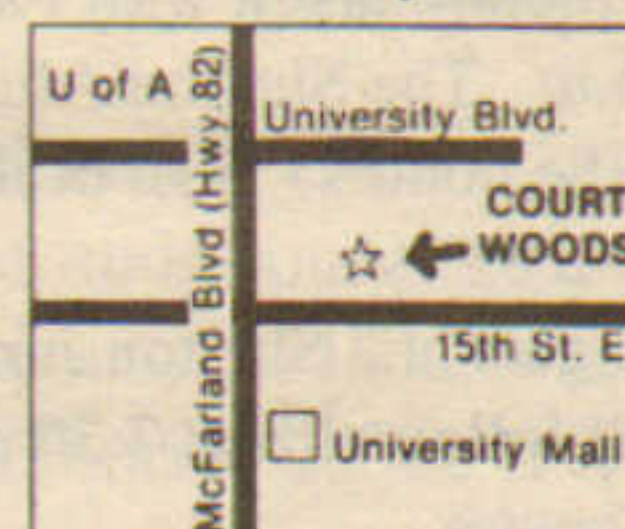
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